

Futures: Greensboro Meeting Minutes Posted

Draft minutes from the February 1 meeting of the Vermont State Hospital Futures Advisory Group are posted on the Mental Health Update web page, along with a meeting handout. The meeting focused on a proposed residential recovery (subacute) facility in Greensboro, and was marked by a large turnout of Greensboro residents who spoke against the proposal. The primary objections were focused on losing a tourist-related commercial property in the center of a small village with a tourism economy, and on the lack of social infrastructure to support patients in recovery and visiting family members. A community meeting will be held this evening at 7 p.m. in Greensboro with representatives from the Health Department and Northeast Kingdom Human Services (NKHS) to discuss the proposal. Answers to many questions that have been raised about the proposal have been circulated by NKHS and are posted on the Mental Health Update web page.

Futures: Actuarial Services Contract Being Signed

A contract between the State and the preferred respondent to a recent RFP for actuarial services is being circulated for signatures and will be announced when the process is complete. The contractor will provide expert assistance in estimating the bed capacities needed for adult psychiatric inpatient services 10 years into the future, to replace the Vermont State Hospital. The analysis will take both the community-based system of care and the designated hospital inpatient programs into consideration for this estimate.

Futures: Architecture+ Meetings Scheduled

Architecture+ has scheduled a series of meetings to work with Vermont stakeholders to develop the basic design for the primary inpatient service and to evaluate potential sites on the Fletcher Allen campus. The firm will also be working with the two smaller inpatient capacity potential partners, (Retreat Healthcare and Rutland Regional Medical Center). These meetings are open to the public (see schedule elsewhere in this Update), and stakeholders are encouraged to attend. In addition, Vermont Psychiatric Survivors has agreed to sponsor a focus group of recently hospitalized individuals to meet with the firm on March 14 (contact is Linda Corey at vpsinc@sover.net – 802-775-6834.) Finally, Architecture+ will conduct a focus group with current Vermont State Hospital inpatients on March 3.

Futures: Work Group Discusses Access to Courts

The sub-acute work group, now being called the Residential Recovery Program work group, met Wednesday with Court Administrator Lee Suskin to discuss the scheduling of actions to revoke or modify orders of non-hospitalization (ONHs). Currently, when a client is believed to be in need of a return to hospitalization, it takes at least six weeks and typically longer to get a ruling. Potential providers who are developing residential recovery programs want more rapid determinations. The question for Suskin was: Can the mental health providers and the courts come up with a scheduling agreement that assures more timely access for ONH revocations or modifications? Suskin expressed willingness to work toward such an agreement. Any proposal

would depend on input from the Mental Health Law Project (MHLP), which was not represented at Wednesday's discussion. A publicly noticed meeting to discuss the matter further will be organized with representatives from MHLP, the Attorney General's Office, the Department of Health, and would-be residential recovery providers. A recommendation from that meeting will be forwarded to the Court Administrator's Office.

Adult State Standing Committee To Meet

The Statewide Program Standing Committee for Adult Mental Health will meet on February 13. The agenda includes discussion of re-designation of Northeast Kingdom Human Services and meetings with candidates for the position of director of adult mental health services at the Department of Health. The meeting will be in Room 100 of Stanley Hall in the Waterbury state office complex.

Dawn Philibert To Join Division of Mental Health

Dawn Philibert, MSW, will join the Division of Mental Health as of February 27, replacing John Pierce, who recently retired as assistant division director. Philibert's title will be director of mental health systems development, and she will assist Deputy Commissioner Paul Blake in the administrative work of the division, coordinating many of the special projects the division is involved with and working on opportunities offered by the division's merger with the Department of Health. Philibert is currently the Early Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) chief with the Health Department's Division of Community Public Health, and has a strong background in health policy, systems development and program implementation.

Carrie Hathaway Moves to OVHA

Carrie T. Hathaway, the Division of Mental Health's director of financial services, has accepted a position as finance director of the Office of Vermont Health Access. In her six and a half years with Mental Health, Hathaway was instrumental in developing the CRT case rate system and all other major financial initiatives developed by the Mental Health Division. Her competence and creativity will be greatly missed by staff of the division and of the provider system.

Upcoming Meetings

- **Vermont State Hospital Futures Advisory Group** (currently scheduled)
 - March 20, 2-4:30 p.m., Room 100, Stanley Hall, Waterbury State Office Complex.
 - May 15, 2-4:30 p.m., Skylight Conference Room, Waterbury State Office Complex.
 - June 26, 2- 4:30 p.m., Skylight Conference Room, Waterbury State Office Complex.
- **Futures Clinical Care Management Work Group** (*Please note change of dates and locations*)
 - February 10, 9-11 a.m., Room 107 (break-out: Room 102), Stanley Hall, Waterbury State Office Complex.
 - March 10, 9-11 a.m., Room 107 (break-out: Room 102), Stanley Hall, Waterbury State Office Complex.

- April 7, 9-11 a.m., Room 107 (break-out: Room 102), Stanley Hall, Waterbury State Office Complex.
- **Futures Residential Recovery (sub-acute) Work Group (*Please note change of locations*)**
 - February 22, 9-11 a.m., Washington County Mental Health Services Office, 9 Heaton Street, Montpelier.
 - March 15, 9-11 a.m., Washington County Mental Health Services Office, 9 Heaton Street, Montpelier.
 - April 5, 9-11 a.m., Washington County Mental Health Services Office, 9 Heaton Street, Montpelier.
 - April 26, 9-11 a.m., Washington County Mental Health Services Office, 9 Heaton Street, Montpelier.
- **Futures Facilities Work Group (With Architecture+)**
 - February 6, 1-4 p.m., Room 2A, Health Department, 108 Cherry Street, Burlington.
 - February 21, 1-4 p.m., Room 3B, Health Department, 108 Cherry Street, Burlington.
 - March 3, 1-4 p.m., Room 3B, Health Department, 108 Cherry Street, Burlington.
 - March 14, 11 a.m., Vermont Psychiatric Survivors-hosted consumer focus group, Room 3B, Health Department, 108 Cherry Street, Burlington.
 - March 14, 1-4 p.m., Room 3B, Health Department, 108 Cherry Street, Burlington.
 - April 3, 1-4 p.m., Room 3B, Health Department, 108 Cherry Street, Burlington.
 - May 22, 1-4 p.m., Room 3B, Health Department, 108 Cherry Street, Burlington.
 - June 12, all day, for presentations; various locations to be announced.
- **Vermont Council of Developmental and Mental Health Services and Local Mental Health Program Standing Committees**
 - March 24, 10 a.m.–1 p.m., statewide meeting, Chamber of Commerce Building, Berlin. The Vermont Council is sponsoring this meeting – a wonderful opportunity to recognize the work of local committees and to gain informed feedback about issues facing consumers, family members and local communities.
- **Burlington City Council (regular meeting)**
 - Briefing by State, FAHC and neighborhood representatives, February 6, approximately 7:30 p.m., for 20 minutes, Contois Auditorium, Burlington City Hall.

VSH Census

The Vermont State Hospital census was 47 as of midnight Thursday night. The average census for the past 45 days was between 47 and 48.

Questions and comments about the Mental Health Update may be directed to John Howland Jr. (howland@vdh.state.vt.us). If you are reading a print version of this Update, you may find the web version at www.healthyvermonters.info/mh/mhindex.shtml

